

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DLOS-03 PM-03 L-02 NSC-05 CG-00

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5181

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, IC, FO

SUBJECT: FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH FAEROESE HELPS PAVE
GOI WAY TO 200-MILE EXTENTION

1. ICELAND AND THE FAEROE ISLANDS SIGNED A FISHERIES AGREEMENT FEBRUARY 22 FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN REYKJAVIK. PACT LIMITS FAEROESE CATCH TO TOTAL OF 20 THOUSAND TONS PER YEAR AND CONTAINS ADDITIONAL STIPULATIONS AS TO NATURE AND LOCATION OF FAEROESE FISHING AT CERTAIN TIMES OF YEAR WITHIN ICELAND'S CLAIMED 50-MILE JURISDICTION. PREVIOUSLY THERE HAD BEEN NO LIMIT ON FAEROESE CATCH WHICH, ACCORDING TO PRESS WAS 21,500 TONS IN 1973 AND 21,800 TONS IN 1974.

2. AGREEMENT EXPIRES NOVEMBER 13, 1975, SAME DATE AS EXPIRATION OF ICELAND'S FISHERIES AGREEMENTS WITH UK AND BELGIUM AND DATE BY WHICH, AS FISHERIES MINISTER MATTHIAS BJARNASON NOTED IN DISCUSSING FAEROESE PACT, ICELAND WILL HAVE TAKEN "FATEFUL DECISION" TO EXTEND JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES.

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3. COMMENT: NEW AGREEMENT, HWICH IMPOSES ONLY SLIGHT

CURB ON FAEROESE CATCH COMPARED WITH TONNAGE OF LAST
TWO YEARS, IS NONETHELESS SIGNIFICANT FOR ICELAND SINCE
IT CAN BE CONSTRUED AS FURTHER IMPLICIT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF ICELAND'S RIGHT TO UNILATERALLY EXTEND JURISDICTION
AT TIME WHEN GOI IS PREPARING TO EXTEND STILL FURTHER
TO 200 MILIES.
MARTIN

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